

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 OES-06

AGR-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 CAB-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 FRB-03 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 PM-04

NSC-05 SS-15 /107 W

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R 211201Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5824

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 226

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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PARIS FOR UNESCO, ROME FOR FODAG, VIENNA FOR IAEA & UNIDO,

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJ: CERP-0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REF: STATE 072386

1. SUMMARY: DUE TO UN'S FINANCIAL CRISIS ITS PROGRAMS IN HUNGARY, WHICH HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SMALL, HAVE BEEN FURTHER TRIMMED. VARIOUS UN ORGANS REMAIN INVOLVED IN PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY INCLUDING: INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTER (UNOTC); NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL
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TECHNOLOGY (UNESCO); PILOT ZONES FOR WATER QUALITY MANAGE-

MENT (WHO); BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER (UNESCO);
IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE IN THE TISZA RIVER VALLEY, PHASE II,
(FAO); IRRADIATION AND STERILIZATION OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES
(IAEA); DEVELOPMENT OF FISH CULTURE RESEARCH (FAO);
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY (UNESCO).
THERE IS NO UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN BUDAPEST
AND LITTLE LOCAL COORDINATION OF THE DIVERSE PROJECTS.
UNDP GENEVA PREPARES ANNUAL REVIEW AND, TOGETHER WITH
GOH, MAKES FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM PLANS. END SUMMARY

2. GENERAL COMMENT: WITH A PER CAPITA INCOME OF OVER
\$2100 PER ANNUM HUNGARY IS HARDLY A LDC. EMBASSY CON-
TINUES TO QUESTION CRITERIA USED BY UNDP AND OTHER UN
AGENCIES TO GRANT HUNGARY AID. HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS
ADMIT THAT UN SIMPLY PROVIDES FROSTING ON HUNGARIAN CAKE
AND THAT COUNTRY WOULD CERTAINLY SURVIVE IF PROGRAM WERE CUT.

3. (QUESTION A, REFTEL A); ROLE OF UNDP IN UN DEVELOPMENT
SYSTEM: THERE IS NO UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN HUNGARY
AND NO RESIDENT UN EXPERT HAS MANDATE TIME OR DESIRE TO
ASSUME SUCH A ROLE. AS IN PAST YEARS, MOST VISIBLE AND
INFLUENTIAL UN FIGURE IS LOCATED AT INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER
EDUCATION CENTER WHERE DR. JOHN BUXTON (BRITISH) NOW
OVERSEES THAT PROGRAM, BUT DUE TO HIS OWN HEAVY WORKLOAD
HE HAS MINIMAL CONTACT WITH OTHER PROJECTS. UN FIELD
SUPPORT REMAINS GOOD, AND OLD PROBLEM OF SLOW SALARY
PAYMENT TO UN EXPERTS APPEARS SOLVED.

4. (QUESTION B); COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE: N/A.

5. (QUESTION C); FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS: ACCORDING TO
HUNGARIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL RESPON-
SIBLE FOR OVERSEEING UNDP PROGRAMS, FINANCIAL CRUNCH
EXPERIENCED BY UN IN PAST YEAR HAS SLOWED PROGRESS ON
VARIOUS PROJECTS THROUGH POSTPONEMENT OF EQUIPMENT PRO-
CUREMENT AND TRIMMING OF EXPERT MAN MONTHS AVAILABLE,
BUT HAS NOT GROUND PROGRAMS TO A HALT. SEVERAL PROJECTS
SIMPLY HAD EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES DELAYED IN ORDER TO KICK
FUNDING OVER INTO THE NEXT YEAR. GOH OFFICIAL STATES
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MAGYARS ALREADY HAVE TENTATIVE APPROVAL FOR \$7.5 MILLION
IN INITIAL STAGE OF SECOND FIVE-YEAR CYCLE (1977-1981).
PATIENT HUNGARIANS HAVE CLEARLY OPTED FOR WAIT AND SEE
POLICY TO DETERMINE HOW DRASTICALLY UN CUTS WILL ACTUALLY
AFFECT PROGRAMS. HUNGARIANS HAVE POSTPONED DECISIONS
ON ANY MAJOR NEW PROJECTS, THOUGH WHEN ASKED TO CITE
POSSIBLE FUTURE PROJECTS FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL
STATED THAT "IN THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI" FUTHER COOPERA-

TION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES OF DANUBE BASIN IN ENVIRON-
MENTAL AREA AND POLLUTION CONTROL APPEARS TO BE A VIABLE
LONG-TERM UN PROJECT.

6. (QUESTION D); COUNTRY PROGRAMMING: THE EMBASSY HAS
BEEKFUNABLE TO OBTAIN DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE NEW
UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR 1977-1981. HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS
HAVE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT EMBASSY REQUEST FOR SUCH
INFORMATION STATING A BETTER SOURCE WOULD BE DIRECTLY
THROUGH UN IN GENEVA OR NEW YORK. SOME UN EXPERTS ARE
RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS STATUS OF THEIR PROGRAMS WITH
EMBASSY OFFICERS.

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7. (QUESTION E); PROJECT EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION:
EMBASSY MOST FAMILIAR WITH PROJECT REVIEW ON INTERNATIONAL
COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTER HELD IN BUDAPEST DECEMBER 12-17,
1975. AS IN PAST, PROJECT RECEIVED PREDICTABLY HIGH MARKS
AND VISITING UN OFFICIALS REMAINED IMPRESSED WITH GOH
CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRAM WHICH NEARLY 50 PERCENT GREATER
THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED AND REFLECTS PRIORITY GIVEN TO
COMPUTER TRAINING BY MAGYARS. FURTHERMORE GROWTH OF
HUNGARIAN TEACHING STAFF ALSO INCREASED TO 90 FULL-TIME
INSTRUCTORS COMPARED TO AN ORIGINALLY PLANNED 60. EXCEPT
FOR SHORT PROGRAM GIVEN BY HUNGARIANS IN MONGOLIA, COURSES
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OFFERED BY THE CENTER FOR STUDENTS FROM DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES HAVE NOT PROGRESSED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE,
THOUGH THIS DUE IN PART TO TYPICALLY SLOW CONSTRUCTION
ON NEW COMPUTER CENTER. WHEN BUILDING FINALLY COMPLETED
IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR 600 STUDENTS TO BE TAUGHT
SIMULTANEOUSLY AND ALSO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR 300. MORE
IMPORTANTLY, IT WILL ALSO MINIMIZE TIME WASTED AS
STUDENTS AND STAFF CHASE AROUND FROM ONE PART OF TOWN
TO ANOTHER FOR COURSES. CONSTRUCTION DELAYS HAVE MEANT
THAT SOME COMPUTER HARDWARE ALREADY ORDERED AND DELIVERED
MUST LIE DORMANT AWAITING SUITABLE SPACE. HUNGARIAN
OFFICIALS AT THE CENTER STATED THAT IN GENERAL THEY ARE
ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH SERVICE OF UN EXPERTS AND WITH
RESULTS OF FELLOWSHIP. DUE TO FINANCIAL CRISIS FOREIGN
EXPERTS' SERVICES HAVE BEEN CUT BY 70 PERCENT AND PROJECT
MANAGER BUXTON EXPECTS HIS POSITION TO BE TERMINATED
IN FEBRUARY 1977, THOUGH HE HOPES TO HAVE TOUR EXTENDED
AS "WORKING PROJECT MANAGER" BRIEFLY TO SEE PROGRAM TO
COMPLETION WITH NEW DIGITAL PDP-1170 DELIVERED, INSTALLED
AND OPERATING. ACCORDING TO COUNTRY REVIEW HELD IN
FEBRUARY ICEC PROJECT WILL RECEIVE ONLY \$100,000 OVER
NEXT FIVE YEARS WHICH WILL EFFECTIVELY TERMINATE UN
ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD.

8. ANOTHER KEY PROJECT, PILOT ZONES FOR WATER MANAGE-
MENT, HAS SEEN WHO SPEND SOME \$300,000 ON EQUIPMENT FOR
POLLUTION CONTROL AND WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT. TWENTY-
ONE FOREIGN EXPERTS HAVE COME TO HUNGARY ON THIS PROGRAM
INCLUDING BLAIR T. BOWER FROM RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE,
INC., AND PAUL W. EASTMAN FROM THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION
ON THE POTOMAC BASIN. EIGHTY HUNGARIAN EXPERTS HAVE
RECEIVED UN FELLOWSHIPS GAINING ADDITIONAL
EXPERIENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES. HUNGARY, WHICH IMPORTS
MOST OF ITS WATER AND MUCH OF ITS POLLUTION FROM UP-
STREAM, HAS A GOOD RECORD IN THE WATER MANAGEMENT FIELD.
UN PROGRAMS IN THIS AREA SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

9. (QUESTION G); WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: LABOR-POOR
HUNGARY, WHERE ALMOST ALL ADULT WOMEN ALREADY WORK IN
FULL SPECTRUM OF JOBS, CONTINUES TO SEEK NEW WAYS TO
MAXIMIZE UTILIZATION OF ITS WOMEN IN WORK FORCE. COM-
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PUTER EDUCATION CENTER REMAINS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF
ATTEMPTED UPGRADING FEMININE SKILLS. ON UN SITE, WE
ARE UNAWARE OF ANY FEMALE EXPERT CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO
HUNGARY, AND LONE PROFESSIONAL UN SECRETARY FOUND HER
POSITION CUT IN MARCH AND RETURNED TO NEW YORK HEAD-
QUARTERS.
MUDD

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